

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1993
 CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

NOB5

INTELLIGENCE

BY DAVID C. MARTIN

WASHINGTON (AP) -- THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE IS TO RECEIVE DOCUMENTS FROM THE FBI SHOWING THAT THE BUREAU KNEW A CIA PLOT TO KILL FIDEL CASTRO WAS IN PROGRESS ON THE SAME DAY PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED.

THE DOCUMENTS, WHICH THE FBI APPARENTLY NEVER GAVE TO THE WARREN COMMISSION, ARE EXPECTED TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE TODAY, ACCORDING TO SEN. RICHARD SCHWEIKER, R-PA., CHAIRMAN OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE KENNEDY SLAYING.

SCHWEIKER SAID THE NEW DOCUMENTS "COULD BE VERY VITAL" IN DETERMINING WHO IN THE FBI ORDERED THE INFORMATION ABOUT CIA ATTEMPTS AGAINST CASTRO WITHHELD FROM THE WARREN COMMISSION, WHICH INVESTIGATED KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION.

HE SAID THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CIA PLOT AGAINST CASTRO MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN WITHHELD EVEN FROM THE FBI AGENTS ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE THE KENNEDY SLAYING.

DAVID BELIN, WHO WAS AN ASSISTANT COUNSEL FOR THE WARREN COMMISSION, SAID: "THE FACT THAT THEY WOULD WITHHOLD INFORMATION FROM AN INVESTIGATION OF THIS KIND HAS RATHER CHILLING IMPLICATIONS. ONE OF THE THINGS WE WERE LOOKING AT WAS WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CASTRO INVOLVEMENT IN THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION."

MEANWHILE, SEN. DANIEL K. INOUYE, D-HAWAII, HAS BEEN NAMED AS THE PENDING LEADER AND LIKELY CHAIRMAN OF THE NEW SENATE PANEL SET UP TO MONITOR AND CONTROL FUTURE SPY ACTIVITIES.

5-21-75 10:45EDT



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FAM-RFK-Castro; 400

DETROIT (AP) - ROBERT F. KENNEDY APPARENTLY WAS THE KEY MEMBER OF A SECRET KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION TEAM MEASURING THE IMPACT ON CUBA OF AN ASSASSINATION OF FIDEL CASTRO, THE DETROIT NEWS REPORTED FRIDAY.

"U.S. SENATE PROBERS . . . ACCIDENTALLY HAVE UNCOVERED THE EXISTENCE OF A SUPERSECRET TEAM OF TOP KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WHOSE MISSION WAS TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF AN ASSASSINATION OF THE CUBAN DICTATOR, THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

IN A COPYRIGHT STORY WRITTEN BY SETH KANTOR OF ITS WASHINGTON BUREAU, THE NEWS SAID KNOWLEDGEABLE GOVERNMENT SOURCES DISCLOSED THAT ROBERT KENNEDY WAS THE KEY MEMBER OF THE TEAM, WHICH WAS ASSEMBLED BEFORE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS SHOT IN 1963.

"EXISTENCE OF THE CLANDESTINE KENNEDY COMMITTEE WAS UNEARTHED TWO WEEKS AGO BY PROBERS OF THE SENATE'S SO-CALLED KENNEDY ASSASSINATION PANEL, HEADED JOINTLY BY SEN. GARY W. HART, D-COLO., AND RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, R-PAL," THE PAPER SAID.

THE NEWS SAID IT HAD LEARNED THAT THE HART-SCHWEIKER COMMITTEE MET BEHIND CLOSED DOORS FRIDAY TO SIFT THROUGH INFORMATION ON THE CUBA-RELATED POLICY GROUP KNOWN AS THE "INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE."

THE NEWSPAPER SAID ITS SOURCES DISCLOSED THAT SEVERAL FEDERAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, FBI AND DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIVES AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS WERE INVOLVED IN THE OVERT KENNEDY COMMITTEE.

(over)

FOR THE PAST SEVEN MONTHS; THE NEWS SAID; THE HART-SCHNEIKER PANEL HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR SIGNS OF INFLUENCE BY DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE FORCES ON THE ACTIONS OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD; THE MAN IDENTIFIED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION AS PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SLAYER.

THE NEWS SAID THE HART-SCHNEIKER COMMITTEE WILL REPORT NEXT WEDNESDAY ON THEIR FINDINGS TO MEMBERS OF THE PARENT SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE; CHAIRED BY SEN. FRANK CHURCH; D-IDAHO.

THE CHURCH COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE PUBLIC MOST OF THE REPORT BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK; THE NEWSPAPER SAID; ADDING THAT SOME ASPECTS OF THE REPORT - INCLUDING DETAILS OF THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE - ARE EXPECTED TO BE WITHHELD FROM THE PUBLIC.

THE DETAILS WILL BE FURNISHED INSTEAD TO THE PERMANENT SENATE INTELLIGENCE WATCHDOG COMMITTEE SET UP THIS WEEK AND EXPECTED TO BE IN OPERATION NEXT MONTH; THE NEWS SAID.

THE SENATE VOTED 72-22 WEDNESDAY TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT 15-MEMBER SELECT COMMITTEE WITH BROAD POWERS TO LOOK INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATION'S CLOAK-AND-DAGGER AGENCIES.

1956-FEB 05-21

Motives Sought in JFK Death

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Senate intelligence committee voted yesterday to recommend a congressional investigation of the motives behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The committee took the action at a closed meeting called to discuss the results of its special inquiry into the shortcomings of the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency and other government agencies that helped investigate the murder.

As chairman of a two-member subcommittee that took up the controversial issue, Sen. Gary W. Hart (D-Colo.) told reporters that he had seen no evidence to invalidate the Warren Commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was Kennedy's lone assassin.

But he added that "the remaining question, which the Warren Commission did not answer, was 'why?'"

"It's in that area," Hart said, "that I think the lingering doubts remain."

The other subcommittee member, Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.), predicted that the committee would release a fairly detailed and, he hinted, troubling report later this month on failures of the original investigation of the President's death and nagging issues that need to be pursued.

Schweiker indicated that he was not persuaded that Oswald acted alone or even that Oswald fired any of the bullets that day in Dallas. "I have always questioned the Warren Commission finding about who did it and how it was done," he told reporters. "My six months on this subcommittee have not changed my opinion."

The committee, which is about to go out of business,

recommended that the new inquiry be undertaken by the permanent Senate intelligence oversight committee the Senate is considering establishing.

Meanwhile, documents just made public by the CIA in response to a freedom-of-information lawsuit showed that CIA officials were talking of assassinating Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and his closest advisers in early March of 1963, apparently just a few days before secret planning for a Cuban invasion was approved by the Eisenhower administration.

Some critics of the Warren Commission's work have suggested that Kennedy's 1963 murder may have been in retaliation for the CIA's reported sponsorship of plots to kill Castro.

Others have contended that the assassination could be traced to anti-Castro Cuban exiles bitter at Kennedy for the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion and for his secret gestures toward rapprochement with the Cuban premier just before he was killed.

In a 1975 memo drafted for the Rockefeller commission, a presidentially appointed panel that looked into CIA abuses, and made public last month, CIA counterintelligence officials said they still felt, as they did in 1964, that the Warren Commission report should have given more credence to the possibility of a foreign conspiracy in light of promising leads that were not pursued.

The Senate intelligence committee's investigation of CIA-sponsored assassination plots showed that the scheming against Castro continued after Kennedy's death.

Even on Nov. 22, 1963, the day Kennedy was shot in Dallas, a high-ranking CIA official was meeting in Paris with a secret agent who was a Castro intimate to offer him a pen rigged with a poison hypodermic needle for use on the Cuban premier.

The heavily censored CIA assassination documents made public yesterday touched not only on Castro, but also on other foreign leaders killed in coup or attempted coups with various degrees of U.S. backing.

The documents were released by Robert Borosage of the non-profit Center for National Security Studies as part of a freedom-of-information project jointly sponsored with the American Civil Liberties Union.

The records were all made available last year to the Rockefeller Commission and then to the Senate committee, presumably with fewer deletions.

One six-page document, dated May 13, 1951, titled "CIA Covert Activities, Dominican Republic," had everything excised from it except part of one paragraph. It pointed out that the CIA had supplied "internal opposition leaders" with three .33 cal. revolvers, three carbines and accompanying ammunition as "personal defense weapons attendant to their projected efforts to neutralize Trujillo."

According to authoritative sources, the CIA told the White House in that same May 13, 1951, report that it also had some submachine guns and grenades in Ciudad Trujillo which could be provided to the anti-Trujillo group if the go-ahead were given.

The spy agency, however, deleted this from the document it gave Borosage.

ACLU national staff counsel John H. F. Shattuck said yesterday that he would continue pressing in court for more details.

He said he would "suspend judgment" as to whether the Rockefeller Commission got still more documents that have yet to be acknowledged in any fashion.

According to the records released yesterday, Castro's assassination was mentioned as early as March 9, 1960, during a meeting of the CIA's "Branch 4 Task Force." Presiding was Col. J. C. King, the chief of the Western Hemisphere Division within the CIA's Directorate of Plans.

He told the meeting that then-CIA Director Alan Dulles was "presenting a special policy paper" to the National Security Council's 312 Committee, which supervised covert operations.

The heavily censored memorandum for the record added: "Col. King stated that (deleted) unless Fidel and Raul Castro and Che Guevara could be eliminated in one package—which is highly unlikely—this operation can be a long, drawn-out affair and the present government will only be overthrown by the use of force."

Following the 1961 debate at the Bay of Pigs, President Kennedy approved an all-out secret war of sabotage and propaganda against the Castro regime under the code name "Operation Mongoose," whose de facto boss was Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

Reporting on a "Mongoose meeting" on Oct. 4, 1962, shortly before the Cuban missile crisis, then-CIA Director John McCone noted that Robert Kennedy, as chairman, made plain his and the President's "dissatisfaction with lack of action in the sabotage field."

The documents showed that the legacy of assassination involvement continued to pursue the CIA even after last year's investigations were starting to bring them to the surface.

In early April of 1975, a few weeks before the final U.S. evacuation of South Vietnam, for instance, CIA headquarters here was evidently told of a "potential coup" being planned against South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu in hopes that the change would bring continued American support for the beleaguered country.

The CIA reacted with deep alarm, fueled by memories of the 1953 coup that resulted in the death of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

"With Diem president and current allegations against our agency," then-CIA Director William E. Colby cabled Saigon on April 4, 1975, "it would be both institutional and national disaster if there were any remote connection between us and such an event . . . If things get complicated at all, advise and I will recommend strongest effort to facilitate Thieu and family safe passage and haven."

1. Certain Policy Review (December),
by CIA. earliest we've gotten is Jan 64

Dec. 8th CIA Document in
LBT library 14 May 1976

what kind of news (we said nothing stated prior to Van)

REFERENCES TO CIA ON TELEVISION NEWS

2. request in a Alpha 66

FRIDAY, 14 MAY 1976, 0700-0800 HOURS

operational interest in somebody - with
" " plucked out relevant
To other staff

^{to John Smith}
CBS News correspondents Fred Graham and Bruce Morton interviewed Senator Richard Schweiker (R Pa.) about his work on a Senate subcommittee investigating the assassination of President Kennedy. Part of the exchange....

Fred Graham - "Was this deliberate shading of the truth by these investigative agencies (referring to the CIA and FBI as investigative agencies), or was it inefficiency or both?"

Senator Schweiker - "Actually it was both, and I think it was significantly both, and dealt with both organizations (CIA and FBI)."

Fred Graham - "What would have been the motive for these organizations to lie?"

Senator Schweiker - "Unfortunately we don't know that, but there is no question in my mind that they did, and whether they were ordered to do it or did it for their own personal reasons I don't know and that is what I hope Phase II of our investigation will find out." (10 mins.)

On ~~NCB~~^{ABC}, correspondent Ford Rowan reports that Senator Gary Hart (D Colo.), a member of the Senate Committee, says the new evidence does not disprove the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald killed Kennedy.

(Screenings of the program may be arranged by calling Pictorial Services Branch, x7407.)
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I. Hall our country today - "interdependent
committee formed" in '63. on Carbon Retention
and U.S. (raise question on why??)

CBS News - 14 May

Sen. Schweiker, Fred Graham and Bruce Morton.

Gentlemen.

Good morning, Hughes.

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Senator Schweiker, you said before you made the preliminary investigation, that you had a hunch or feeling that when all the facts were known, the Warren Commission report into the Kennedy assassination would collapse like a house of cards. Well, now you've had a chance to look into this preliminarily. Do you still believe that?

Yes, I do. In fact, my six months of work on the Committee convinces that my original hunch is now reenforced and strengthened and I feel that way stronger than ever.

Well, can you tell us generally the areas that you've gone into that have given you this impression.

With our limited time and resources, we can focus on the role of the CIA and the FBI played in the investigation. Right before we went into it, we had found out, of course, that -- and part of our full Committee did this, that Allen Dulles had been in on the official plots to kill Castro, yet he didn't breathe one word about it to the Warren Commission when he

was a member of it. We found out the FBI destroyed a note in Dallas that was significant in terms of Oswald's relationship. Our full Committee uncovered the fact that J. Edgar Hoover had a do-not-file procedure for destroying their own embarrassing edocuments and a Hoover affidavit that he filed with the Warren Commission never said to the best of his knowledge and belief, only that his records showed certain things. Our investigation went further but ^{to} in those kind of investigative matters and found some significant new material about deficiencies and defectiveness in the investigation.

Well, now when you say deficiencies, was this deliberate shading of the truth by these investigative agencies or was it inefficiency or both?

Actually, it was both, and I think it was significantly both and dealt with both organizations.

What would have been the motive for these organizations to lie?

Unfortunately, we don't know that. But there's no question in my mind that they did, and whether they were ordered to do it, or did it for their own personal reasons, I don't know. And that's what I hope phase two of our ^{question} investigation would find out.

who
Senator, Gary Hart/was with you on this two-man sub-committee said yesterday, as I understand it, that he thought there were some questions about Oswald's motive, whether he was working for Castro or whatever. But that he didn't really have any doubts that Oswald did it and did it by himself. Are your doubts wider than that?

Yes, I would say so. I would agree with Sen. Hart in that the question of whether Oswald was working for the pro-Castro or anti-Castro Cubans a key, and I think that if you answer that you'll answer the riddle of the Kennedy assassination. And so I agree with that far. But, frankly, I don't see if you have an investigation that you know is defective and you can prove it's defective almost across the board, how you can conclude the conclusion is right. And that's where my doubts rest.

Do you know of any evidence at all that would lead you to believe that Oswald was not the assassin or that he was not the lone assassin?

Well, we haven't been able to go that far. We simply went with the intelligence agencies investigations. Our mandate didn't go beyond that. On the other hand, I frankly,

So, the answer to that question is no.

Well, the answer is no now. But I would frankly believe that if we pursued some very hot leads that we have now that weren't pursued by the Warren Commission, that we well may answer that question.

Well, now are you suggesting that this further investigation that your Committee recommended yesterday, is very likely to go beyond an investigation of the investigation, and really become a sort of a re-investigation of the Kennedy Assassination?

Well, it certainly has to go beyond what we did because we have some hot leads hanging in the air. And it's very frustrating after working on it so long to have that particular curtain drawn. So I think naturally they'd have to follow those up, and the answer would be yes, it would go beyond.

In other words, the question the investigators would ask was not the original investigation satisfactory, but who killed Kennedy.

I think for the first time our subcommittee focused on where to look for the needle in the haystack. Nobody knew that up to now. I think now we pretty well know where to look, know what to look for, and we know what questions to ask. And from what I can see, the CIA or the FBI never was in that ballpark.

Well, Senator, he was right in New York. I just said ^{if} there is no evidence as far as you know that anyone other than Oswald committed the murder, what's the uproar about? I guess I don't understand it.

Well, this wasn't what we investigated. Let me ask you this, if an investigation is proved to be deficient, it's basis for a new trial. For example, just the fact that the note was destroyed in Dallas would give Lee Harvey Oswald a new trial and he wouldn't be guilty today if he were alive.

That note was the one in which Oswald told the FBI agent, "Quit bothering my wife or I'll punch you in the nose" or something to that effect, wasn't it?

That's correct. But also if they didn't know enough to find we out that/were killing, planning to kill, Castro, and didn't investigate one of the prime motivation areas it would have made the whole investigation an abortion. And so what kind of an investigative conclusion is that when you start on the wrong premise.

Where are you going to look for that? You say you know where to look for the needle in the haystack. Where?

Well, in the Cuban connection and in the relationship between Oswald and the Cuban community. And this just wasn't explored by the Warren Commission, to any extent.

Senator, you said you had some hot new leads. ^{do} When/we find out what those were. I gather you can't tell us what those were.

One of the problems with this is that the Committee in making these motions very wisely did include in their motions that anything that would basically hurt further investigation would have to be put aside for the new Committee. So frankly we can't give some of those out till we pursue them. But I still think there'll be enough significant new material that will come out to make a good point.